

FOREWORD

Statistics, Operations Research and related methods are widely used in many fields. With the advent of new technologies, discoveries and social changes, the way of obtaining data and optimising functions is changing continuously. For example, computing facilities can help us to propose and study sophisticated models to approach non-conventional data such as DNA sequences, microarrays, high-dimensional data, resampling methods, visualisation, environmental data and complex distributions. Thus theoretical research, as well as applications, have a promising future in these disciplines.

This issue of Statistics and Operations Research Transactions, or **SORT** for short, is the inaugural issue of the journal with this new name. Actually, **SORT** is the continuation of *Quaderns d'Estadística i Investigació Operativa, Qüestió*, a journal which has published 26 volumes since 1977 in several languages, the last volume in 2002. Thus the first volume of **SORT** starts with number 27. **SORT** will publish two issues per year.

By transforming *Qüestió* into **SORT**, we wish to offer an international journal to the scientific community which publishes high-quality articles in English covering the following topics: statistics and probability, operations research, official statistics and biometry. This transformation is the natural consequence of the quality of the groups doing research in Catalonia on these topics. **SORT** has the support of four Catalan universities and two institutions.

The type of papers suitable for **SORT** include case studies, theoretical and methodological contributions, survey papers which synthesise recent advances, communications on technical aspects and software, and reviews of books. Papers on regional statistics and the history of statistics and operations research are also welcomed.

SORT will only accept papers satisfying the requirements of originality, quality and clarity of presentation. To satisfy these requirements, the submitted manuscripts will be reviewed under the supervision of an Editor, four Executive Editors and one Production Editor, with the advice of an Editorial Advisory Committee.

Finally, the word “sort” has an interesting history. It comes originally from “sors” in Latin meaning “lot, fate, portion, rank, category”, words that are highly charged with probabilistic and numerical meaning. In the 14th century French the word “sorte” meant “class or kind”, suggesting classification which is an important part of modern Statistics. And, on a lighter note, in the Catalan language “sort” just means “luck”!

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